

HOUSE BILL 1404  
By Tindell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, to enact the "Comprehensive Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Program Act".

WHEREAS, there are few more serious health threats to today's youth than alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and

WHEREAS, evidence supports the basic premise that prevention is the most humane and cost-effective response to drug and alcohol-related problems among youth; and

WHEREAS, some prevention efforts are not effective because they focus solely on the negative or use scare tactics. Young people need more than facts and figures about alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, more than assemblies and lectures, more than essay and poster contests, more than being told to "just say no" to drugs; and

WHEREAS, while these efforts have a place in an inclusive program, they are simply not enough. To be successful, a comprehensive program must encompass instruction and skill-building activities, parent involvement and community support to develop skills in our youth to enable them to resist alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this general assembly that a grant program be created within the Department of Health to provide assistance to organizations which have or which develop a resistance training/social skills program to provide the necessary tools to the youth of Tennessee to aid them in successfully resisting peer and media pressures to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and to understand the physical and social changes taking place in their lives; now therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 7 of this act as a new part to be appropriately designated.

SECTION 2. The title of this act is, and may be cited as, the “Comprehensive Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Program Act”.

SECTION 3. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

- (1) “Commissioner” means the commissioner of health; and
- (2) “Department” means the department of health.

SECTION 4. There is created within the department of health the “Comprehensive Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Program Grant”.

SECTION 5.

(a) Subject to the availability of funding in the general appropriations act, grants shall be provided in such amounts as determined by the commissioner to organizations which have or which develop a resistance training/social skills program to provide the necessary tools to the youth of Tennessee to aid them in successfully resisting peer and media pressures to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and to understand the physical and social changes taking place in their lives.

(b) In order to qualify for a grant, the components of such program offered by an organization must, at a minimum, have:

(1) An in-service training that provides staff and volunteers with an overview of the program, and suggests ways to incorporate the prevention message into any other programs offered by the organization.

(2) A skills development program for boys and girls ages six (6) to nine (9) years of age. The program focus on this age groups shall be on self-awareness, decision making and interpersonal skills, while communicating age-appropriate information about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

(3) A resistance skills program for youth ages nine (9) to twelve (12) years of age that focuses on ways to identify and resist peer, social and media pressures to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

(4) A social skills program for adolescents thirteen (13) to fifteen (15) years of age that teaches resistance skills, stresses reduction techniques, communication skills, assertiveness training and life planning and which provides accurate information about alcohol use, tobacco use and other drug use.

(5) A program for parents that emphasizes communication skills and factual information about alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

(6) A plan that implements community service projects in which youth and adults work as a team, the end result of which enhances the self-esteem of the participating youth and gives them a sense of accomplishment and a sense of belonging to the community.

(c) If the program of an organization provides some but not all of such components, then, in the discretion of the commissioner, such organization may qualify for a percentage of the grant which equates to the percentage of such components the organization offers.

SECTION 6. The commissioner shall develop:

(1) The criteria for determining how available funds for grants shall be disbursed to qualifying organizations; and

(2) The application and appeals process for issuing such grants.

SECTION 7. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate necessary rules and regulations in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Title 4, Chapter 5, to effectuate the provisions of this act.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.